CITY OF BENKELMAN

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting. Present: Mayor Robert Rhoades; Council Members Nicholas Baney, JoAnn Decker, Deb Stamm; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt; City Superintendent James Summers; Absent: Council Member Barbara Pinkerton and Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Nichols. Others Present: Sharon Rhoades, Larry Boyd, Buck Menuez, Linda Jones, Pam Shaw, Linda Seabolt, Mary Deyle, Greg Burrows, Tammy Buffington and Deputy Ryan King.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Rhoades called the meeting to order and stated that we follow the open meetings law, which is posted on the south wall by the main entrance.

Mayor Rhoades Comments: (1) Phalen Sanford putting Benkelman on the map last Saturday with his hard work as a Nebraska Football Husker (2) Mayor Rhoades complimented City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Rosenfelt on her work on putting the agenda together and (3) the reports from Jeremiah Unger on water and Bobbie Behlke on garbage; very well done and appreciated.

Pam Shaw was in attendance and voiced her concern on the number of dogs that run around town, and most are not licensed. You can tell who license their dogs and who doesn’t. She has looked at our city codes and was asking why we are not enforcing the rules. The City of Benkelman buys 100 dog tags a year (minimum) as of today the city has sold 28 tags. Mrs. Shaw was asking if there is a way to get word out to newcomers to town, maybe they don’t know the rules. The city will put this information in the paper, Facebook and we have a welcome packet for new customers. Most of this information has been put out there, but not being enforced.

The agenda item for awarding bid for the sewer lining project will be on the agenda for next month as the ad did not make it into the paper for the advertising.

Attorney Burke has no update on the CRA/Dundy County Settlement. They are waiting on one signature page to be returned.

Mayor Rhoades talked about funding for the CRA; at this point they are stuck without help with funding from the city. Council member JoAnn Decker did attend the CRA meeting on the 12th of October and relayed to the council of the projects that the CRA would like to move forward with. It is the feeling of the council at this time that they want to wait until the CRA/Dundy County Settlement is signed off on and the dust has settled then we will go from there before we start anything new. They want to wait until the 1st of the year to see when all the paperwork is done, money turned over and checks have been cashed.

Buck Menuez gave an update on the CRA. September meeting minutes were in the council packets. The CRA is working on getting a TIF Attorney, but until they have a project, there is no need for an Attorney at this point. Council member JoAnn Decker discussed the minutes of the CRA, they had talked about the future TIF Projects like the Truck Stop and Dollar General. They were not mentioned in the minutes. Buck will get ahold of Rita and have her correct those minutes. There was some discussion on the 4-H Shooting Sports. Mary Deyle talked about the clean-up of the Furman Property located at 1010 Chief Street.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to forgive the dump fee on the property at 1010 Chief Street, the Furman Property to remove trash prior to demo, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Baney, Decker, Stamm; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Deputy Ryan King gave the monthly Police Report.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Stamm, Baney; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

* Approve Minutes of September 19, 2022, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting.
* Approve Treasurers Report.
* Approve Bills.
* Accept Jodi L. Schneider resignation from the Benkelman Housing Authority.
* Accept Justin Schorzman resignation from the Planning Commission.
* Approve & sign final documents & recommendation for payment of retained monies for substation recloser replacement in the amount of $4,218.42.
* Approve Invoice number 09063 to RVW in the amount of $3,102.36 for Phase I Reclosers Distribution.
* Approve Invoice No. 22 0918 to Miller & Associates for SCADA Upgrades in the amount of $227.50.
* Approve Invoice No. 22 0919 to Miller & Associates for GIS Mapping in the amount of $700.00.
* Approve Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services.
* Planning Commissions Minutes: No meeting, no permits.

FYI: October 1, 2022 increase at McCook Transfer Station went from $67.00/Ton to $77.00/Ton.

Enclosed in the packets was a Water Report that was submitted by Jeremiah Unger (attached to these minutes).

Enclosed in the packets was a Garbage Report that was submitted by Bobbie Behlke (attached to these minutes).

City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Rosenfelt gave her monthly report (attached to these minutes).

City Superintendent James Summers gave his monthly report (attached to these minutes).

City Superintendent James Summers would like to readvertise to get some help in the Electrical Department. Council agreed to advertise again, and we will train an applicant.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to have City Superintendent James Summers contact Dundy County and find a replacement for the dozer at the C&D Site, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Stamm, Baney, Decker; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to go into Closed Session at 7:21 p.m. with Mayor, City Council, City Superintendent and City Clerk/Treasurer to discuss employee wages, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Stamm, Baney, Decker; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Mayor Robert Rhoades stated that the subject matter to be discussed in Closed Session shall be limited to Employee Wages.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to come out of Closed Session at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Baney, Decker, Stamm; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to approve employee raises as presented; (attached to these minutes), seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Stamm, Baney; absent: Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

 Robert Rhoades, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk